

✓ Salem Lamartine 11:00 3/9/69

*Processional Hymn 467
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
* Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Mark 11; 20-33
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements
Feb. 16th Rev. Hiack
Mar. 23rd Paul Aloyi
Parish Agreement on board
1660 not loan, but subsidy or grant

CHURCH PRACTICE 2:00

MRS. LATCHMAN

LENTEN SERVICE 2:00 PM
APRIL 2 PM

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 135
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 208
*Benediction
* Threefold Amen

W. John Lenton 9:30 3/9/69

*Processional Hymn 27
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel 23 Pg. 575
Hymn 448
Scripture Mark: 11; 20-33
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements
Mar. 16th Rev. Hiack
Mar. 23rd Paul Aloyi

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 167
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 316
*Benediction
Threefold Amen

Removing Mountains.

Text; Mark 11; 20-33

MARK

Our Scripture lesson for this morning had to do with prayer, faith and authority. These are three very heavy subjects to try to cover in one sermon to be sure. However I only intend to scratch the surface so to speak, in order to point out the relevance of these subjects to the cross. As ~~you~~ most of you know, the central theme we are covering is the cross. Each one of these three subjects has something specific to do with the cross. At sometime in the future I intend to devote a sermon or series of them on prayer. So at this time I will not delve into it too deeply.

Jesus was telling His listeners a very common Jewish phrase. It was a very vivid phrase used in connection with the removal of difficulties. A good teacher who could remove the difficulties from the minds of his scholars, was called, "A mountain mover." What the phrase really means as Jesus used it, is that if we have real faith, prayer is a power that can solve any problem, and make us able to overcome any difficulty. This may sound very matter of fact and so simple that it may cause some to say, "Get him, its easier said than done." Which is all very true. But it means first that we must be willing to take our problems and our difficulties to God. This is a very difficult thing to do however. Many times what we want or what we wish is something that we should not want at all. Many times it is a thing that we should not even think of doing. Many times it is something of which we have no right to ask. So the real test in all of this is that we ask ourselves the question, "Can I go to God with this and expect His help?" Then if it meets ~~this~~ test we should go to God with it. Then secondly we must be willing to accept God's guidance when He gives it to us. It is useless for us to ask for God's help and guidance if we are not ready to be humble and accept what His answer ^{may} ~~must~~ be.

Now if we follow along with Jesus during the week of His passion, we see that on the evening of the Last Supper, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane, and prayed fervently on three different occasions. What is recorded is that He prayed that the suffering and the agony and the cross itself would be taken from Him. That He be spared the ordeal which He felt was the Father's will. We are not

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in any of the Gospel accounts that His prayer was answered. At least not in so many words. But we are led to believe that His prayer was answered. At least it appears as though this may have been the case, by the words He used after He finished His third prayer. He said, to His disciples, "The hour has come." By this it would seem that He definitely had His answer. And during the hours that He hung on the cross He prayed to God. So Jesus points us to prayer by His very actions. He knew what prayer was for, He used it often. And so should we.

The faith that Jesus said could move mountains was another ^{THING} He ^{USED} time after time. We can leaf through the Gospels and find quite a few incidents where He points to faith or displays it in His own life. The thought occurred to me this week when I thought of leafing through the Gospels, that perhaps what we should do in Church each week is to ask a question that can only be answered by doing some research in our Bibles. In this way we could perhaps get more people to use their Bibles. ^{MAYBE} ~~Perhaps~~ the person with the right answer the next Sunday could be given a hundred green stamps or something. ~~Perhaps~~ ^{THAT} This may be frowned on by some but we do need more Bible reading in our religion. But getting back to the subject, Jesus was a man of faith. He had the faith that His Father was with Him in all things. If only we could have this absolute, unrelenting faith such as Christ. But you see we are subject to the human failing of being weak. We want to have this unswerving faith, but we always bring our reservations into the circumstance. We think, "Maybe He won't answer my prayer," or, maybe God won't be with me," If I try this I just know I am going to do it all wrong," or things such as this. But you see God is with us and He will be with us if we just put ourselves into His hands. I think most of you can remember the insurance slogan I used on one occasion, how, "You are in good hands with God." Well this is how Jesus lived, and certainly if it worked for Him it can work for us. But we must believe it first and then act upon it. This is the only secret. First belief and then action.

In the Temple mentioned in our Scripture were two famous cloisters. Now a cloister as in this instance was a covered way walled on one side and colonnaded on the other. One of these cloisters was on the East and one on the ~~side of~~

southside of the Court of the Gentiles. The one on the east was called Solomons porch. It was reportedly a magnificent arcade made by Corinthian columns 35 feet high. The one on the south was even more magnificent. It was formed by four rows of white marble columns each 6 feet in diameter and 30 feet high. There were 162 of them. It was a common thing for Rabbis and teachers to stroll among these columns and teach as they walked. Most of the great cities of ancient times had these cloisters and arcades. They gave shelter from the sun and the wind and the rain. And it was a plain fact that in ~~most of~~ these places most of the religious and philosophic teaching was done. One of the most famous schools of thought was that of the stoics. They received their name from the fact that Zeno their founder taught as he walked in, "The Painted Porch," in Athens. The word stoa means "porch or arcade" and the stoics were "the school of the porch." It was in these cloisters in the Temple that Jesus was walking and teaching. This is where He was confronted by the chief priests and the scribes and elders. They asked Him the question, "What authority ~~do~~ have you for ~~doing these things~~ acting like this, or who gave you the authority to do these things." Jesus answer was a question for them. Had He answered that He was acting under His own authority they could have arrested Him. And Had He answered that He was acting by the authority of God, He could have been arrested on the charge of blasphemy. His question was about John the Baptist, whether his work was human or divine. They in turn knew that if they answered that it was divine then Jesus would ask why they were against him. ~~If however they said that it was human~~ They also knew that if they replied that John's work was divine this would mean that they must accept Jesus as the Messiah, since John pointed all men to Jesus as the Messiah. If however they said John's work was human, they stood against the people since the death of John had made him a martyr and he was accepted as a prophet. So they answered that they did not know. To which Jesus replied that neither would He answer their question. But Jesus always showed and said by what authority He did things. It was always done with the authority of God. Jesus accepted this authority. He never flinched from it or failed to do it. In fact He tried in all things to do what God wanted Him to do. He emphasized the fact that God sent Him into the world to do His will. This is what we have a real need for in our present day. We need to accept the authority of God in our

lives. In fact a large segment of our society needs to learn to accept authority ^{AS WELL AS FACT GOD,} as it comes to us from our elected officials and our police. The rule too often ^{EXAMPLE OF FLAG SALUTE (PLEDGE ALL)} today is to try to resist authority and to try to do everything against it. ~~THIS~~ ^{THIS} is a form of evading the truth. And the truth is that laws and regulations are made for our own good. The laws of God protect us from the perils and pitfalls of life. But if we break these laws and resist the authority of God we are not facing up to the consequences. We are deceiving ourselves. We become more deeply enmeshed in our own circumstances and eventually find ourselves helpless. But if we try to follow the authority of God we can find consolation and peace not only in our troubled world, but in our troubled lives. This is the lesson we must learn from the example of Jesus.

Jesus taught us about prayer. He taught us about faith, and He taught us about the authority of God. If we ~~try~~ try to observe all of these things in our lives, we can live with ourselves knowing that God is with us. This is where we gain the peace that passes all understanding. This is being a Christian.

Our lives gain the meaning that they should have. These are the lessons Jesus taught us and if we are willing to accept what He has offered us, then we will live in this light. Let us pray.

* IN A CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF OUR MEMBERS LAST NIGHT, SHE SAID THAT WHEN WE HAD PRAYER & BIBLE READING IN SCHOOL WE DIDN'T HAVE ALL THIS TROUBLE. BUT AS SOON AS IT WAS TAKEN OUT THIS ALL STARTED. AND THIS IS TRUE.